

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of October 9-October 13, 2006**

**1. Takoma Metro Hearing:** All seven City Councilmembers, two City staff members and a large turnout of community members testified against proposed transit changes at the Takoma Metro. Of the over fifty persons testifying at Wednesday evening's public hearing at Trinity Episcopal Church on Piney Branch Road, NW, only four persons spoke in favor of the proposal. Problems with the plan include making the parking lot smaller, making it harder to get to the elevator entrance, and restricting the area for bus service. City research has also shown that the sales price of the property to townhouse developer EYA would be between \$7.3 and \$9.3 million, but that WMATA would need to pay at least \$7 million for the changes to the transit facilities (and likely much more), plus would have increased operating expenses at the site. Extensive background information is on the City's web page, [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). A link will be added soon to the video of the hearing, and a video of problems with the plan. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

**2. WMATA Compact Hearing:** City TV staff recorded the WMATA Compact Hearing on Wednesday, October 11, 2006. It will be replayed on City TV 13 on Tuesday, October 17, at 1:00pm and 9:00pm; and on Thursday, October 19, at 11:00pm. It will be available on the City website as a webstream archive in the near future; a link will be posted to the main page with the other materials on the Takoma Metro development. (*City TV*)

**3. Street Restoration:** Concrete work on Willow Avenue is continuing completion expected mid-week next week. The milling and resurfacing have not yet been scheduled but are anticipated sometime during the week of October 23. (*Public Works*)

**4. Loader Arrives:** The new loader, which replaces the backhoe that was destroyed in a fire, arrived today, October 13. (*Public Works*)

**5. Leaf Collection:** Preparation is underway for the annual vacuum leaf collection operation. The collection program will begin November 7 and continue through December 22. A green flyer will be mailed to each household with collection information. (*Public Works*)

**6. Mulch Deliveries Stopped Until Next Spring:** The mulch deliveries have been stopped for the year and will be resumed in March. (*Public Works*)

**7. Rent Stabilization (City-wide):** HCD staff met with representatives of Montgomery County DHCA, Victory Housing, Montgomery Housing Partnership (MHP), and Community Preservation Development Corporation (CPDC) on Wednesday, October 11 to review the requirements of the recently adopted ordinance governing exemptions from rent stabilization. The ordinance went into effect on October 1. To date, applications for exemptions have been distributed to the three nonprofit housing organizations doing business in Takoma Park and to two private landlords leasing to tenants with Section 8 vouchers. We have not received any completed applications at this time. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**8. Carroll Avenue Streetscape Project - Phase II (Ward 1):** As previously noted, the City is awaiting formal approval of the Carroll Avenue Streetscape Project and proposed Community Legacy Financing Plan by the Maryland Department of Housing and

Community Development. This matter was scheduled to be heard by the Board of Public Works on Tuesday, October 10th. Staff has been advised that a decision on the City's request has been delayed and will be considered some time in the next one to three weeks. Execution of the contract for the Carroll Avenue Streetscape Project is on hold pending formal approval by the State. The project was presented to OTBA workshop attendees on Tuesday, with HCD staff attending the pre-workshop mixer. OTBA members were provided an opportunity to review construction drawings and ask questions regarding the timing and anticipated impact of the planned improvements. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**9. DCRA Vendor Orientation:** HCD staff attended an information session for vendors seeking licenses in DC, hosted by the District of Columbia's Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. DC has recently changed their Vending License and will be implementing the changes in January 2007. HCD is assisting in an evaluation of Takoma Park's current Peddler's Ordinance and licensing process. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**10. City Receives Community Legacy Award for New Hampshire Avenue (Wards 2, 3 and 6):** HCD staff members attended the 2006 Community Legacy Awards Ceremony where Governor Ehrlich announced awards for Prince George's County and Montgomery County. The City was awarded \$38,000 for facade improvement grants along New Hampshire Avenue. Also of note, Casa of Maryland received \$100,000 to renovate the new day laborer site in Langley Park as well as \$50,000 for site operations and training for day laborers. Montgomery County was awarded \$75,000 for the Georgia Avenue/Triangle Lane Connection to design and construct streetscape for a new public walkway to facilitate a safe pedestrian environment, and demonstrate a commitment to include the arts in future public and private projects. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**11. Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Tour (City-wide):** Representatives from the Maryland Dept. of Housing and Community Development toured the community on Thursday, October 12, to view a number of state funded projects located in Takoma Park. Stops included Hampshire Towers (Ward 6), the Takoma Park Coop (Ward 3), Victory Tower (Ward 1), the residential section of the Carroll Avenue streetscape project (Ward 1), Laurel Avenue streetscape improvements (Ward 1), Liz Lerman Dance Exchange (Ward 1), the Takoma Park Community Center (Ward 1), the Orchard Avenue Commercial Building (Ward 2), and several Neighborhood BusinessWorks projects. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**12. Park View Towers - Residents Meeting October 18 (Ward 4):** Landlord-Tenant staff has scheduled a meeting with the tenants of the Park View Towers (7667 Maple Avenue) on Wednesday, October 18, 2006 from 7pm - 9pm. The meeting will be held in the Auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. The purpose of this meeting is to answer questions that tenants may have regarding the hardship rent increase petition process. Owner, Parkview Towers, LLC filed a hardship petition on October 2 and is seeking a 36% rent increase. Community organizers will be attending the meeting should the tenants decide they want to form a tenants' association. For further information call 301.891.7216. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**13. Homeowner's Property Tax Credit Program - Application Deadline October 31(City-wide):** The deadline of October 31 is fast approaching to apply for a property tax credit through the Homeowner's Property Tax Credit Program. Homeowners with an annual household income of less than \$64,000 may be eligible to receive a credit on their 2006 tax bills. In addition to income requirements, eligible taxpayers must own and have lived in their homes for 6 months or plan to live in the home for 6 of the next 12 months. The combined net worth of the entire household must not exceed \$200,000 (does not include home's value). Taxpayers 70 years or older may apply retroactively for the current year and two previous tax years. To apply for the credits, call 1.800.944.7403 for an application. Applications can be downloaded at [www.dat.state.md.us](http://www.dat.state.md.us) . *(Housing and Community Development)*

**14. Beaded Jewelry Exhibit (City-wide):** Featured this month in the display cases in the computer learning center is the work of Takoma Park artist Kathy Breckbill. Ms. Breckbill's work can be viewed through the month of October. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**15. Poetry Reading - October 19 (City-wide):** Local poets Matthews Salomon and Mary Carter Williams will be featured this coming Thursday, October 19 as part of the monthly poetry reading sponsored by Poet Laureate Don Berger in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Commission. The reading will begin at 7:00pm and will be held on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**16. Personnel Changes in the Police Department:** Demetrice White joins the Police Department Monday, October 16 as the Parking Enforcement Coordinator. Lakyia Coles, previously in that position, has moved to Administrative Clerk. Cpl. Andrew John has been assigned as Police Affairs Specialist for 90 days to cover the position opened with the resignation of Carol Bannerman. An oral board was convened this week to select a canine officer to handle K-9 Diesel, whose prior handler is on administrative leave. *(Police)*

**17. Officers in Training:** Three officers who are in-house instructors attended state police commission training, "Instructors: A Practical Approach to Training." *(Police)*

**18. Officers in Meetings (Ward 4):** Sgt. Gilbert, Det. Conrad and Ofc. Black attended a community meeting Thursday at Edinburgh House in the 7500 block of Maple. *(Police)*

**19. Traffic Enforcement (Wards 2, 3, 4, and 6):** Officers conducted at least 94 traffic stops this week, 85 percent ending in written citations of some type. More than half of the stops were made on Maple, New Hampshire, and Poplar Avenues. *(Police)*

**20. Crime Statistics (All Wards):** The by-beat crime statistics for the second quarter of 2006 (April - June) are attached. *(Police)*

**21. Parking Citations (All Wards):** In the third quarter (July - September), the Police Department issued 1,067 parking citations with fines equalling \$54,880. For the year to date, 3,046 citations with potential revenue of \$148,508 have been issued. *(Police)*

**22. College Expo:** On October 7, 2006 the Recreation staff took 20 Takoma Park teens to the College Expo at the Prince George's sports and Learning Complex. The

expo featured over 50 universities and educational institutions. There were also seminars about preparing for college and careers. The teens really seemed to enjoy this day long event as there were a lot of people to answer questions about schools and career choices. They attended a seminar called "Hot Careers" where a panel of professionals covered different career paths such as entrepreneurship, law enforcement, civil engineering, writing and more. The trainer from the popular "The Biggest Loser" show also spoke to the youth. At the end of the day, they were entertained by a college step show competition. *(Recreation)*

**23. Afternoon Addition:** Afternoon Addition reached capacity the first week of the program. This year, new enrichment activities have been instituted: Dance club, art club, library visits, game room, outside games and special guests. Officer Kurt Gilbert came in and talked to the kids about staying home alone and Halloween safety. Lisa's World let the kids experience hands-on the wild plants and insects that live on Earth with us. Next week: swimming at the YMCA Piney Branch Pool. *(Recreation)*

**24. Basketball Program:** The Pee Wee Basketball Program is underway. Twenty 1st and 2nd graders are learning the fundamentals of this great game every Sunday afternoon at Piney Branch Elementary. This Sunday is the first week the kids will be placed on individual teams. The staff, besides providing valuable instruction, makes sure the volunteer coaches have fun and encourage the kids at the same time. The program runs through November 19th. *(Recreation)*

<b>Second Quarter 2006 (Apr - Jun) Takoma Park</b> UCR Statistics - Part One Crimes				
	2004	2005	2006	Range of <b>Annual Rate</b> <i>(based on 1994-03)</i>
Homicide	0	0	2	0-2
Rape	0	1	0	4-9
Robbery	17	18	19	59-94
Aggravated Assault	10	6	16	24-39
Burglary	38	46	26	129-162
Larceny	113	129	120	457-601
Auto Theft	34	24	40	141-202
1 <sup>st</sup> Q Totals	212	224	223	868-1,058

<b>2006 Reported Crime, 2nd Quarter, by Takoma Park Police Beat<sup>1</sup></b>											
	V1	V2	V3	W4	W5	W6	X7	X8	X9	06 Total 2 <sup>nd</sup> Q	05 Total 2 <sup>nd</sup> Q
Homicide	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	0	1	4	2	1	0	3	7	1	19	18
Aggravated Assault	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	7	9
Burglary <sup>3</sup>	3	1	1	2	3	1	3	5	1	20	46
Larceny (over \$500) <sup>2</sup>	3	2	0	0	0	2	0	6	1	14	20
Auto Theft	3	2	7	2	5	4	2	12	5	42	24
2 <sup>nd</sup> Q 2006 by beat	9	7	14	7	9	8	8	33	9	104	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Q 2005 by beat	7	12	15	14	11	12	7	22	18		118

<sup>1</sup> Difference between UCR Part I statistics and "By Beat" total may result from reporting delays and other factors. Crimes include attempts and completed crimes. <sup>2</sup> Only larceny over \$500 and theft from auto is counted by police beat; UCR includes all thefts. <sup>3</sup> Two of the three V2 burglaries have been school-related, one is residential.